
Commerce & Labor Committee

HB 3220

Brief Description: Allowing counties, cities, and towns to conduct raffles under certain terms and conditions.

Sponsors: Representative Condotta.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows a county, city, or town to conduct raffles under the Gambling Act as long as the net proceeds are used for community or tourism promotion activities.

Hearing Date: 1/31/08

Staff: Joan Elgee (786-7106).

Background:

Washington's Gambling Act authorizes charitable and nonprofit organizations to conduct raffles to raise funds for the organizations' stated purposes. The organization must be organized for one of the purposes specified in statute which include agricultural, charitable, educational, political, fraternal, or athletic purposes, and meet other requirements.

A raffle may be conducted as a licensed or unlicensed raffle. A license is required if: (1) the gross revenue from all gambling fundraising conducted by the organization is more than \$5,000 per year; (2) tickets are sold by someone other than a member of the organization; (3) tickets are sold at a discount; (4) firearms are awarded as prizes; and (5) in certain other cases.

Credit unions and a group of executive branch state employees are considered nonprofit organizations and may conduct unlicensed raffles under certain conditions.

Summary of Bill:

A county, city, or town is considered a nonprofit organization for purposes of organizations authorized to conduct raffles and may conduct licensed or unlicensed raffles so long as the

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revenue, less prizes and expenses, is used for community activities or tourism promotion activities.

Rules Authority: The bill does not address the rule-making powers of an agency.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.